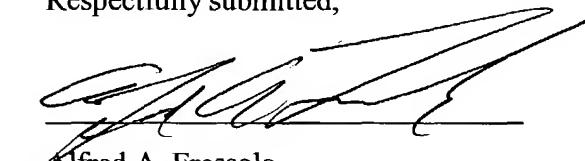


REMARKS

Applicant has amended the present application to indicate priority claimed and to insert additional description into the specification to clarify that the rod shown in Figure 1 (or Fig. 2) has a second end that extends beyond coating 6, that a second metal interface is fixed to the second end of the rod, and that a second metal end fitting is secured to this second metal interface. It is believed that the application is now in condition for examination. Examination of the claims and early passage to allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 27,550

Dated: July 17, 2003

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955